



Postmaster general is confident about ability to process mail-in ballots

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

Postmaster General Louis DeJoy has a message for America: The U.S. Postal Service is ready for a flood of election mail and is better positioned to do so than it was four years ago.

The Postal Service has been undergoing rapid changes, including the opening of large hubs, but some of those changes are being paused before the election to ensure they don't interfere with performance, DeJoy said. And it will be all hands on deck to ensure the millions of mail-in ballots are delivered swiftly to their destinations.

"We're going to be in great shape for the election. I'm pretty confident about everything that we're doing," DeJoy told The Associated Press ahead of an official rundown Thursday of election mail practices. "The American people should be confident."



The U.S. Postal Service's next-generation delivery vehicle, left, is displayed as one of the current delivery trucks leaves the Kokomo Sorting and Delivery Center in Kokomo, Ind., Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024.

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Continued from Front

It's a far cry from four years ago, when DeJoy, just a few months into the job, was being criticized as a Donald Trump crony who was dismantling mail-processing machines and removing blue postal boxes to undermine the election as Trump, the president at the time, sowed distrust in the Postal Service. Despite being excoriated, DeJoy's Postal Service performed admirably under a crush of mail-in votes during the pandemic, and strongly pushed back against what they said were false claims of any intentional effort to damage the postal service before the 2020 election. If there was any lesson learned from the painful experience, DeJoy said, it was that the Postal Service needed to be bolder in its messaging. "We have to be louder than the noise in communicating how well we're going to do and that things are going to be OK. Things are going to be good. We're in a better operating position than we ever have been," he said. U.S. Postal Service officials briefed news reporters Thurs-

day on measures that are being taken to ensure election mail reaches its destinations, building on its performance in 2020, when 97.9% of ballots were returned to election officials within three days, and in 2022, when 98.9% of election mail was delivered within three days. DeJoy said he'd like to inch closer to 100% this election cycle. The lack of drama is a welcome relief from four years ago, when the Postal Service was dogged by backlogs and accusations of voter suppression ahead of the 2020 presidential election, in which more than 135 million ballots were delivered to and from voters. DeJoy was criticized for restricting overtime payments for postal workers and stopping the agency's longtime practice of allowing late and extra truck deliveries in the summer of 2020. And the previously scheduled dismantling of dozens of mail-sorting machines and removal of blue boxes, corresponding with a massive drop in first-class mail, provided additional fuel to critics. The postmaster general,

who was a major donor to Trump, was thought to be on thin ice, especially with the election of Democratic President Joe Biden. "It was sensationalized. It scared the hell out of the American people," DeJoy said. Reflecting on the period, he said the accusations were "just crazy" and especially frustrating as he worked seven days a week after taking over an organization that was going to run out of cash in 60 days. "We got through that. The organization performed extremely well. After that, I began working with both sides of the aisle. My main mission now is to make this place better. And we have made this place better," he said. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, a frequent critic of changes under DeJoy, said Thursday that he's confident Postal Service workers will "will ensure every ballot cast by mail is safely and securely delivered." But the Virginia Democrat also said that oversight is important and that "Congress must remain



Postmaster General and CEO Louis DeJoy speaks in the East Room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

Associated Press

vigilant on decisions made by the postmaster general in the days leading up to this election." The Postal Service is proceeding with a 10-year, \$40 billion Postal Service modernization plan in which it's renovating aging facilities, opening modern regional hubs in Georgia, Virginia, Oregon and elsewhere, and starting the process of purchasing 100,000 vehicles to replace older delivery trucks dating to 1987. The next-generation delivery vehicle was displayed Thursday at a separate event in

Indiana that was aimed at promoting the Postal Service's investments. The Postal Service also showed that it can make adjustments when it abandoned a criticized plan to reroute Reno, Nevada-area mail processing to Sacramento, California, that had created an uproar among northern Nevada residents. If there's anything the public can do to help, DeJoy said, it would be to avoid procrastination when it comes to mailing ballots. "Vote early! If you're using the mail, help us out," he said. □

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie will teach a course on running for office at Yale

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — Former New Jersey governor and unsuccessful Republican presidential candidate Chris Christie will teach a course on running for office at Yale University this semester. The weekly seminar taught by Christie is titled "How to Run a Political Campaign" and is open to undergraduates as well as graduate students at Yale's Jackson School of Global Affairs. The course description says it will examine issues such as communications, fundraising "and the most im-



Republican presidential candidate former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie speaks during a Republican presidential primary debate hosted by NewsNation, Dec. 6, 2023, at the Moody Music Hall at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Associated Press

portant question of all: If I do win, what do I want to accomplish and what kind of leader do I want to be?" Christie, 61, served as governor of New Jersey from 2010 to 2018 and was the U.S. attorney for New Jersey from 2002 to 2008. He sought the Republican presidential nomination in 2016 but dropped out of the race and endorsed Donald Trump. Christie helped Trump with debate preparations in 2020 but later broke with Trump and refused to support his claims of a stolen

election. Christie campaigned for the presidential nomination once more in 2024 but dropped out in January just before the Iowa caucuses. His Yale seminar follows a talk in April in which Christie told audience members that the truth matters. "Leaders in our political system have abandoned the truth because it's hard," he said. "It's what we're seeing on both sides of the aisle and, to me, that's not what leadership is supposed to be about." □

Justice Department watchdog finds failures in FBI's handling of child sex abuse cases

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and ERIC TUCKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI has failed to report some child sexual abuse allegations to local law enforcement or social service agencies even after changes prompted by its handling of the case against former USA Gymnastics team doctor Larry Nassar, according to a Justice Department watchdog report released Thursday.

In a review brought on by the FBI's failures to promptly investigate Nassar, the inspector general found serious problems persist that run the risk of child sexual abuse allegations falling through the cracks as overworked agents juggle dozens of cases at a time.

In one case, a victim was abused for 15 months after the FBI first received a tip about a registered sex offender, the report said.

"This report makes clear that the FBI is simply not doing its job when it comes to protecting our children from the monsters among us who stalk them," said John Manly, a lawyer who represents victims of Nassar.

"Despite years of promises and numerous congressional hearings it's now clear



Disgraced former sports doctor Larry Nassar appears in court for a plea hearing, Nov. 22, 2017, in Lansing, Mich.

that the Larry Nassar scandal could happen again today." A senior FBI official acknowledged that the bureau has made mistakes in investigating crimes against children but said the "vast majority of work" has been handled appropriately.

"Ensuring the safety and security of children is not just a priority for the FBI; it is a solemn duty that we are committed to fulfilling with the highest standards. The FBI's efforts combating

crimes against children are among the most critical and demanding undertakings we do," the FBI said in a statement.

The inquiry follows a scathing 2021 report that found that FBI's failure to take action against Nassar allowed the doctor to continue to prey on victims for months before his 2016 arrest.

The FBI put in place many changes, but the inspector general says more are needed to protect children.

In a review of more than 300 cases between 2021 and 2023, the inspector general flagged 42 cases for the FBI that required "immediate attention" because there was no evidence of recent investigative steps taken or because of other concerns, according to the report. The inspector general found no evidence that the FBI followed rules requiring allegations to be reported to local law enforcement in about 50 percent of the cases.

When the FBI did report an allegation to law enforcement or social service agencies, it followed FBI policy to report it within 24 hours in only 43 percent of the cases, according to the report.

The FBI accepted all of the findings and recommendations of the report.

Among the changes the FBI is committed to is the development of a training program for investigators and supervisors focused not only on investigative techniques but also on the bureau's own policies and procedures.

Most of the incidents that the inspector general flagged to the bureau "reflected the failure to properly document completed investigative steps or involved investigations where no additional action was necessary," Michael Nordwall, FBI executive assistant director, wrote in a letter included with the report.

Even while acknowledging errors, the FBI cited the "overwhelming" burden on agents tasked with investigating crimes against children given the conduct involved, an influx in tips flooding in to law enforcement, increased use of encrypted technology to conceal the offenses and budget cuts. □

Associated Press

ABC's rules for the Harris-Trump debate include muted mics when candidates aren't speaking

By MEG KINNARD and JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Next month's debate between Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump won't have an audience, live microphones when candidates aren't speaking, or written notes, according to rules that ABC News, the host network, shared this week with both campaigns.

A copy of the rules was provided to the Associated Press on Thursday by a senior Trump campaign official on condition of anonymity ahead of the network's announcement. The

Harris campaign on Thursday insisted it was still discussing the muting of mics with ABC.

The parameters now in place for the Sept. 10 debate are essentially the same as they were for the June debate between Trump and President Joe Biden, a disastrous performance for the incumbent Democrat that fueled his exit from the campaign. It is the only debate that's been firmly scheduled and could be the only time voters see Harris and Trump go head to head before the November general election.

The back-and-forth over

the debate rules reached a fever pitch this week, particularly on the issue of whether the microphones would be muted between turns speaking.

Harris' campaign had advocated for live microphones for the whole debate, saying in a statement that the practice would "fully allow for substantive exchanges between the candidates."

Biden's campaign had made microphone muting condition of his decision to accept any debates this year, a decision some aides now regret, saying voters were shielded from hearing Trump's outbursts

during the debate. "It's interesting that Trump's handlers keep insisting on muting him, despite the

candidate himself saying the opposite," Harris spokesman Ian Sams said. □



Republican presidential nominee former President Donald Trump, left, speaks with a supporter during a stop at a campaign office, Monday, Aug. 26, 2024, in Roseville, Mich.

Associated Press

Boar's Head plant linked to deadly outbreak broke food safety rules dozens of times, records show

By JONEL ALECCIA
AP Health Writer

A Boar's Head deli meat plant in Virginia tied to a deadly food poisoning outbreak repeatedly violated federal regulations, including instances of mold, insects, liquid dripping from ceilings, and meat and fat residue on walls, floors and equipment, newly released records show.

Government inspectors logged 69 instances of "noncompliance" with federal rules in the past year, including several in recent weeks, according to documents released through federal Freedom of Information Act requests.

Inspections at the plant have been suspended and it will remain closed "until the establishment is able to demonstrate it can produce safe product," U.S. Agriculture Department officials said in a statement Thursday. Boar's Head officials halted production at the Jarratt, Virginia, plant in late July.

The plant has been linked to the deaths of at least nine people and hospitalizations of about 50 others in 18 states. All were sickened with listeria after eating Boar's Head Provisions Co.



This photo provided by the family in August 2024 shows Gunter "Garshon" Morgenstein of Newport News, Va., who died at the age of 88 on July 18, 2024, from a brain infection caused by listeria bacteria after eating Boar's Head Liverwurst tied to a deadly outbreak.

Associated Press

Inc. deli meats. The company recalled more than 7 million pounds of products last month after tests confirmed that listeria bacteria in Boar's Head products were making people sick. Between Aug. 1, 2023, and Aug. 2, 2024, inspectors found "heavy discolored meat buildup" and "meat overspray on walls and large pieces of meat on the floor." They also docu-

mented flies "going in and out" of pickle vats and "black patches of mold" on a ceiling. One inspector detailed blood puddled on the floor and "a rancid smell in the cooler." Plant staff were repeatedly notified that they had failed to meet requirements, the documents showed. "I think it is disgusting and shameful," said Garshon Morgenstein, whose

88-year-old father, Gunter, died July 18 from a listeria infection traced to Boar's Head liverwurst. "I'm just even more in shock that this was allowed to happen." The plant was inspected by Virginia officials through a partnership with the U.S. Food Safety and Inspection Service. When problems were found, Boar's Head took "corrective actions in keeping with FSIS regula-

tions," officials said. Federal reports show no enforcement actions against Boar's Head between January and March, the latest records available.

The documents, first reported by CBS News, didn't contain any test results that confirmed listeria in the factory. The bacteria thrive on floors, walls and drains, in cracks and crevices and hard-to-clean parts of food processing equipment. Pests such as flies can easily spread the bacteria through a plant and the germ can survive in biofilms thin, slimy collections of bacteria that are difficult to eradicate.

Officials with Boar's Head did not respond to a request for comment from The Associated Press, but a spokesperson told CBS that the company regrets the impact of the recall and prioritizes food safety.

On its website, the company said all the issues raised by government inspectors were addressed immediately. Barbara Kowalczyk, director of the Institute for Food Safety and Nutrition Security at George Washington University, said the records raise a lot of red flags. □

Woman found dead before police kill husband on I-95 bridge, discover boy's body in vehicle



The Piscataqua River Bridge is shown in Portsmouth, N.H. after a man connected to a homicide was fatally shot by police and an 8-year-old child was found shot to death in the man's car on the bridge that connects New Hampshire to Maine, Thursday, Aug. 29, 2024.

Associated Press

By RODRIQUE NGOWI, PATRICK WHITTLE and CALEB JONES

Associated Press

KITTERY, Maine (AP) — A man being pursued in the killing of his wife in New Hampshire was shot by police and tumbled from the Interstate 95 bridge that connects the state to Maine, officials said Thursday. Their 8-year-old boy was found dead in the back seat of the father's vehicle afterward.

The boy's death was not caused by gunfire from three law enforcement officials who discharged their firearms after the man stepped out of his vehicle and raised a weapon after failed attempts to negotiate with him, Col. William Ross, chief of Maine State Police, told reporters.

After being shot, the man fell more than 100 feet (30 meters) from the bridge into the Piscataqua River, where his body was retrieved by the U.S. Coast Guard. The Piscataqua River Bridge was closed for

seven hours before reopening during the Thursday morning commute, Maine State Police said. Traffic was backed up on both sides as drivers were diverted to two other bridges.

The episode began with the man calling police shortly after 2 a.m. Thursday to report a domestic altercation with his wife in Troy, New Hampshire, where police found his wife's body about 100 miles (160 kilometers) away at a home in the western part of the state, officials said.

Police tracked the man's vehicle to the 4,500-foot-long (1,370-meter-long) span that connects Portsmouth, New Hampshire, to Kittery, Maine.

Tens of thousands of vehicles cross the bridge daily.

One Maine state trooper and two New Hampshire troopers fired when the man emerged from the vehicle and raised his weapon, Ross said. Witnesses reported hearing gunfire shortly after 4 a.m. □

Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels, U.N. says

By **STEPHANIE LIECHTEN-STEIN**

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Iran has further increased its stockpile of uranium enriched to near weapons-grade levels in defiance of international demands, a confidential report by the United Nations' nuclear watchdog said Thursday.

The report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, seen by The Associated Press, said that as of Aug. 17, Iran has 164.7 kilograms (363.1 pounds) of uranium enriched up to 60 %. That's an increase of 22.6 kilograms (49.8 pounds) since the IAEA's last report in May.

Uranium enriched up to 60% purity is just a short, technical step away from weapons-grade levels of 90%. By IAEA's definition, around 42 kilograms (92.5 pounds) of uranium enriched to 60% is the amount at which creating one atomic weapon is theoretically possible if the material is enriched further, to 90%. The IAEA chief, Rafael Mariano Grossi, has previously warned that Tehran has enough uranium enriched to near-weapons-grade levels to make "several" nuclear bombs if it chose to do so. He has acknowledged the U.N. agency cannot guarantee that none of Iran's cen-



The flag of the International Atomic Energy Agency flies in front of its headquarters during an IAEA Board of Governors meeting in Vienna, Austria, on Feb. 6, 2023.

trifuges may have been peeled away for clandestine enrichment.

Thursday's report is the latest low in spiraling relations between Tehran and the IAEA. It follows a June 6 resolution by the 35-member IAEA Board of Governors that censured Iran for failing to cooperate fully with the Vienna-based agency. Iran's mission at the United Nations in New York did not immediately respond to a request from the AP for comment. There were also no immediate comments from Tehran on the IAEA re-

port.

Iran's 2015 landmark nuclear deal with world powers had put limits on its nuclear program which the West fears could be used for making nuclear weapons and Tehran insists is only for peaceful purposes while lifting punitive economic sanctions imposed on Iran. But the deal collapsed after the Trump administration in 2018 pulled the United States out of the agreement, leading Iran to abandon all limits the deal had put on its program, and enrich uranium to up

to 60% purity.

Meanwhile, surveillance cameras installed by the IAEA have also been disrupted and Iran has barred some of the Vienna-based agency's most experienced inspectors. Iranian officials also have increasingly threatened that they could pursue atomic weapons.

The IAEA report further says that Tehran has also not reconsidered its September decision to ban the agency's inspectors from monitoring its nuclear program and that IAEA surveillance

cameras remain disrupted. The IAEA said it had requested in an Aug. 8 letter that Iran provide access to a centrifuge manufacturing site in the city of Isfahan, to enable the agency to service its cameras, but received no reply.

Additionally, the report says Iran has still not provided answers to the nuclear watchdog's years-long investigation about the origin and current location of man-made uranium particles found at two locations that Tehran has failed to declare as potential nuclear sites, known as Varamin and Turqzabad.

The IAEA report comes just days after Iran's supreme leader opened the door to renewed negotiations with the United States over his country's rapidly advancing nuclear program, declaring there was "no harm" in engaging with the "enemy." Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks on Tuesday set clear red lines for any talks taking place under the new government of reformist President Masoud Pezeshkian and reiterated his warnings that Washington was not to be trusted.

The IAEA report said that as of Aug. 17, Iran's overall stockpile of enriched uranium stood at 5,751.8 kilograms (12,681 pounds). □

Danish court rejects extradition to India of an arms smuggling suspect

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — A Danish court on Thursday rejected the extradition request from India of a Danish national accused of being involved in an arms smuggling case 29 years ago, going against Denmark's top prosecuting authority which had given the green light to sending Niels Holck abroad.

Holck admitted taking part in dropping assault rifles, rocket launchers and missiles from a cargo plane in eastern India in 1995. Indian police said they were

meant for a revolutionary group in the country.

The Hilleroed District Court said that despite "the additional diplomatic guarantees" given by India "there is a real risk" that Holck will face torture or other inhumane treatment in India. Holck, 62, said he feared for his life, if extradited.

"I would like to be held accountable in front of a judge because I believe it is a justified emergency, but I would rather not die from it," Holck told Danish radio DR Thursday morning

before the ruling was announced.

While a British citizen and five Latvians were arrested by Indian authorities after they dropped arms, Holck previously known as Niels Christian Nielsen escaped. India first asked Denmark to extradite Holck in 2002. The government agreed, but two Danish courts rejected his extradition, saying he would risk torture or other inhumane treatment in India.

That led to tense diplomatic relations between the



Niels Holck smiles outside Easter High Court in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 30, 2011.

Associated Press

countries.

In June 2023, Denmark again looked into a 2016 Indian extradition request,

saying that the requirements in the extradition act had been met. □

Trinidad and Tobago reckons with colonialism in a debate on statues, signs and monuments of its past

By **DÁNICA COTO**

Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

— In a small auditorium in the seaside capital of Trinidad and Tobago, Christopher Columbus and other colonial-era figures came under scrutiny late Wednesday in a lengthy debate punctuated by snickers, applause and outbursts. The government had asked residents of the diverse, twin-island nation in the eastern Caribbean if they supported the removal of statues, signs and monuments with colonial ties and how those spaces should be used instead. One by one, people of African, European and Indigenous descent stepped up to the microphone and responded. Some suggested a prominent Columbus statue be placed in a museum. Others requested it be destroyed and that people be allowed to stomp on the dusty remains. One man encouraged officials to round up statues of colonial figures and create a “square of the infamous.” The majority of the more than two dozen people who spoke, and dozens of others commenting online, supported removal of colonial-era symbols and names.



A vandalized statue of Christopher Columbus towers over Columbus Square in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024.

“It’s an issue about how after 62 years of independence ... we continue to live in a space that reflects the ideals and the vision and the views of those who were our colonial masters,” said Zakiya Uzoma-Wadda, executive chair of the islands’ Emancipation Support Committee. Trinidad and Tobago is the latest nation to embrace a global movement that began in recent years to abolish colonial-era symbols as it reckons with its past

and questions if and how it should memorialize it as demands for slavery reparations grow across the Caribbean. The public hearing was held just a week after the government announced it would redraw the nation’s coat of arms to remove Christopher Columbus’ three famous ships the *Pinta*, the *Niña* and the *Santa María* and replace it with the steelpan, a popular percussion instrument that originated in the Caribbean.

Others pushed for further changes on Wednesday night. “What the hell is the queen still doing on top of the coat of arms? Please let us put her to rest,” said Eric Lewis, who identifies as a member of the First Peoples, also known as Amerindians. Trinidad and Tobago was first colonized by the Spanish, who ruled it for nearly 300 years before ceding it to the British, who governed it for more than 160

Associated Press

years until the islands’ independence in 1962. The colonial imprint remains throughout streets and plazas, with a statue of Christopher Columbus dominating a square of the same name in the capital of Port-of-Spain.

The islands’ National Trust calls it “one of the greatest embellishments of our town,” but many differ.

“It’s disrespectful to those who were the victims of him. The people suffered tremendously,” said Shania James as she called for the statue to be placed in a museum. “His atrocities should not be forgotten.”

But a handful of people dismissed concerns about how their ancestors were treated, including tour guide Teresa Hope, who is Black. “They survived, and I survived, and we will keep on moving,” she said, adding that if the actions of historical figures were scrutinized, “everything would get knocked down.” Rubadiri Victor, president of the Artists’ Coalition, said his country should instead erect statues and monuments to honor some of the more than 200 Trinbagonians who represent the best of the islands.

“We stumbling and tripping over heroes,” he said. □

WHO says its deal with Israel will allow limited pauses in Gaza fighting for polio vaccinations

By **EDITH M. LEDERER**

Associated Press



Displaced infant Abdel-Rahman Abu El-Jedian, 11-month-old, who suffers from polio, is carried by his mother, center, at a makeshift tent camp in Deir al-Balah, central Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2024.

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. World Health Organization said Thursday it has reached an agreement with Israel for limited pauses in fighting in Gaza to allow for polio vaccinations for hundreds of thousands of children after a baby contracted the first confirmed case in 25 years in the Palestinian territory. Described as “humanitarian pauses” that will last three days in different areas of the war-ravaged territory, the vaccination campaign will start Sunday in central Gaza, said Rik Peeperkorn, WHO’s representative in the Palestinian

territories. That will be followed by another three-day pause in southern Gaza and then another in northern Gaza, he said, noting that the pauses will last eight or nine hours each day. He thinks that health workers more than 2,000 will take part among U.N. agencies and the Gaza’s Health Ministry might need additional days to complete the vaccinations. Peeperkorn told reporters via video conference that they aim to vaccinate 640,000 children under 10 and that the campaign has been coordinated with

Israeli authorities. “We need this humanitarian pause,” he said. “And that has been very clear. We have an agreement on that, so we expect that all parties will stick to that.” These humanitarian pauses are not a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas that mediators U.S., Egypt and Qatar have long been seeking, including in talks that are ongoing this week. Hamas is “ready to cooperate with international organizations to secure this campaign,” according to a statement from Basem Naim, a member of Hamas’ political bureau. □

Planning on snorkeling? Get to know our “Dorado”

(Oranjestad)—If you're ever planning on snorkeling during your vacation on Aruba, you may spot fish that you can't recognize. One of these may be the “Dorado”, a common fish that swims all year long in the waters of Aruba. Here's some information about the beloved Dorado.

Dorado has many different names it can be referred to. Dral, Dorao, Drals, Drado, are some of them in Papiamentu. In English, it is also called Mahi Mahi, Dolphinfish, or Dorado. It's a good example to reflect on why there can be many names. The same fish becomes known by different common names,

why? Common names come only when a group of people, to understand each other, assign a name to a fish. Mahi Mahi, for example, comes from Hawaii and means “very strong”. Dorado is based on Spanish and refers to the golden yellow color that the fish shines with under the sun. Why it's called Dolphinfish in English is not well defined and while there are several stories around this, none have been confirmed.



Dorado is found in all tropical to subtropical oceans around the world. Dorado is very popular both for recreational fishing and for consumption. It is known among fishermen as an exciting catch and a fish that puts up a good fight. Its meat is very good for consumption and it is also commercially fished for that reason.

They grow very fast, up to 2.7 inches (almost 7 cm) per week. They can live up to a maximum of 5 years although very few reach that age. Most become adults within 1 year but many be-

Description:

Dorado has a distinctive body. It has a large tail and its long, flat body ends in a large blunt head. Its color of yellow and green or blue makes it immediately rec-

come reproductive after just 5 or 6 months and reproduce very quickly too.

They live in open water on the surface most of the time. Many fish seek them around sushi lines or floating objects on the sea. Often you will find a group landing together and if you keep a male on the line, often the others will stay close or can keep the group interested by giving shrimp or squid.

Dorado can be found in our waters around the island all year round, but there are periods when it is easier to find than others. □

Source: The Department of Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries (Santa Rosa).

Visit the historic museum at Fort Zoutman!



(Oranjestad)—Located in the middle of downtown Oranjestad, situated right next to the government building “Cocolishi”, is one of the oldest buildings of Aruba: Fort Zoutman. First constructed in 1796, this site has been used (or left unused) in many ways and have survived eras of war and attempted dismantling.

When anyone refers to Fort Zoutman, they are actually referring to two separate buildings that, over the years, have been merged: the fort and the tower. That's right, the iconic 5-story, squared tower was not part of the original structure of the fort, and is actually called “Willem III Toren”. Constructed in 1867, this tower was named after the then-reigning king of The Netherlands, Willem III. Willem III Toren was originally a light tower, but after a request from Lieutenant Governor Jan Helenus in 1866, it also became a bell tower.

The fort itself was originally constructed to protect the commerce bay of Paardenbaai from pirates and other disreputable characters roaming the Caribbean Sea. Unlike the Willem III Toren, Fort Zoutman had a more tumultuous past, including the on-and-off reception of unwanted members of the English military several times (The Netherlands was at constant war with England back in the colonial era).

Over the years, both the fort and the tower had functioned as different government center points, including a tax and stamps office. For some time these two buildings also housed a police precinct and jail, and even experienced abandonment until the Cultural Center Aruba Foundation (CCA) petitioned for its renovation in 1964, turning the site into the Historic Museum it currently is.

Despite its small size, The Historic Museum guards a rich depository of the commercial, military and social history of Oranjestad, offering a glance into how the social culture of the town came to be. If you are interested in history and want to learn more about Aruba, then Fort Zoutman should definitely be included into your itinerary. The museum is open Monday to Friday from 9am-6pm, and Saturday from 10am-2pm. □

Source: The Old Fort of Aruba by Jan Hartog.

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The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Emerald Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mr. Maxwell & Mrs. Lynn Levin from Melbourne Florida, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Paradise Beach Villas bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away



from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's people.
- Aruba's fishing spots.
- Aruba's weather.

- Aruba is out of the hurricane belt.
- "Seeing the friends from year to year"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". ☐

Aruba's Aloe

ORANJESTAD — The aloe plant has been grown on Aruba since the mid-1800. The climate and the dry soil are particularly suitable for the aloe culture. The plant flourishes well here: the Aruban aloe has an aloin content of 22 %, while the content of aloin in the rest of the world is 15% at the most.

The flourishing of the aloe culture in Aruba was under Commander Jan Helenus Ferguson (1866-1871). That's why the road that leads from downtown through the aloe fields was named after him. In the 19th century, an aloe plantation was also constructed in Socotora; Socotora has probably been named after the island of Sokotra or Socotora, at the time a British island in the Indian Ocean, off the

coast of Yemen. That island lies on the same degree of longitude as Aruba and aloe is grown there too. The legend says that Alexander the Great, on the recommendation of Aristotle, conquered this island for the aloe that he used to cure the wounds of his soldiers. On the aloe plantation Mon Plaisir, owned by the Frenchman Louis Bazin, a for its time modern steam driven cooking installation was installed, in the beginning of 1900. In the 19th century, Aruba was the main supplier of aloin resin that was mainly used for the production of laxatives. The aloin was exported abroad, mainly to New York, but also to Hamburg and to London. The resin from the Antilles (called 'Curaçao resin' at the time) was one of the best in the world and more expensive



than the other types on the market. Aruba's share in the export of 'Curaçao resin' was over 90%. In the economy of that time, before the arrival of the oil industry, aloe meant a reasonable source of income, in particular for the small 'cunucero' (farmer). In times of unemployment – de dry season – the aloe culture was a good source of existence.

In the beginning of 1900, the first scientific research is done on the aloe plant. This confirmed clearly the healing effect of aloin on sunburn and other burns. The arrival of the oil industry had a big impact on the labor market on Aruba and the aloe culture got a bit on the background. It was only after World War II that the aloe culture was resumed. In 1949 Casey Eman

founded the first aloe factory of Aruba, under the name of Aruba Aloe Products Company. At the time, the aloe juices were locally processed to aloin and shipped to the United States. In 1951, the production of Aruban aloe amounted to about 15,000 pounds or 30% of the total world production. Source: <http://www.historiadiaruba.aw>. ☐

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Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at Playa Linda Beach Resort!

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure of recognizing Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. The honorees were respectively honored with a certificate for their years of visits, loyalty, and love for the island of Aruba.

The honorary certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests who have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively. These honorees came to Aruba 36 consecutive times and 40 times in total.

The three levels of honor are as follows:

Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors

Mr. Dean & Mrs. Janis Wellmeier from Waynesville Ohio, United States.

Mr. Jorgino Willems representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of Playa Linda Beach Resort bestowed the certificate upon the honorees, presented them with gifts, and thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination, as their home away from home.

The top reasons for returning to Aruba provided by the honorees were:

- Aruba's beautiful sunsets.
- Aruba's beaches.
- Aruba's food choices.
- "It's our second home"
- "The lifelong friends we've made in Aruba"

On behalf of the Aruba Tourism Authority, we would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the honorees for their continued visits to the "One Happy Island". □



Visit the natural bridges of Aruba!



Natural Bridge before collapsing

(Oranjestad)—After you've visited the Alto Vista Church, the Bushiribana Gold Mill Ruins and the mini natural pool that is located right next to it, you're next up around the northern coast line must be the Natural Bridge. Once the largest natural bridge in the Caribbean, this bridge has been a tourist attraction for many years.

The bridge was formed during thousands of years, cut and crafted by the wild waves that

crash into the coral stone walls of the coast. Before its collapse, this bridge measured 30 meters in length and 7 meters in height, making it the biggest natural bridge in the Caribbean at the time. For many years, this site was also a frequently visited beach, as the bridge had a small opening through which the water would flow into the tiny beach.



Baby Natural Bridge



Current state of the Natural Bridge

Unfortunately in 2005, the bridge collapsed, and the little beach dried up. Despite this, this site remained a tourist attraction, with many visitors walking along the coral cliffs of the bridge to see the spectacular view of the northern coastline and the Caribbean Sea. Visitors can also still visit the souvenir shop on the left of the bridge entrance.

While the natural bridge no longer is functional, there is now a smaller natural bridge very close. This bridge is often called the "Baby Bridge" or "Daughter Bridge". □

A brief history of the California Light House

(Oranjestad)—At the furthest western point of the island, there lies the tallest structure on the island: The California Light House. Standing on top of a limestone cliff, this lighthouse oversees the entire island, offering one of few best views of the island and the surrounding sea. It is also one of the few monuments that hold a rich history.

The lighthouse was constructed in between 1914-1916, and its first keeper was a young trained lighthouse keeper from Curacao names Jacob Jacobs. Mr. Frederico Fingal was the last man to have occupied this position until 1962. Though his son, Mr. Romulo Fingal did not continue in his father's footsteps, he does have a special connection to the lighthouse. He sat down with our reporter and shared a bit of its history.

As Mr. Fingal explains, "In 1915, cargo donkeys were hired from Figaroa di Noord to help build the Lighthouse at Westpunt. The donkeys had to walk along the beach all the way to Westpunt carrying the cargo, poles, cement, and all these things. At that time, it was a difficult task until Aruba got its first truck. These things reflect how people could have accomplished this tremendous job with so little." Mr. Fingal said, "At that time, it wasn't a place for people to work. It was very challenging because it was full of goats and donkeys, and it was very isolated. There were no hotels or roads to get there. There was only a donkey trail. Those were the only means of transportation."

Mr. Fingal continues, "In 1939, I was born in the lighthouse, and my father was the last lighthouse keeper until he retired in 1962. After that, they removed the power cables all the way to the top. According to the story, we couldn't have the light ourselves because they disman-



ted it, and after many years, I heard that it is in a train museum in San Nicolas, where we found this very special lens that, when the light shines through it, it reaches 30 kilometers out to sea." Mr. Fingal told our reporter.

The lighthouse has a long and very interesting history. The reason why the lighthouse was built, according to Mr. Fingal, dates back to the day when the cargo ship S.S. California sank because of the lack of light. In 1913, Aruba made a request to Curacao to build a Lighthouse at Westpunt, and the governor of Curacao responded to Aruba to come back in 1915 with a well-detailed plan. "During the First World War from 1914 to 1918, they had to wait for the light to be transported to Aruba because it was manufactured in France. At that time, there was no electricity, and the light was very interesting because it rotated with a kerosene lamp that planes used; clean kerosene," Mr. Fingal said.

Mr. Fingal discovered something very interesting about the lighthouse after much research was

documented in his book 'History of the Lighthouse at Westpunt.' He found many details: "I found out that the height of the lighthouse was due to the absence of electricity. There was also the presence of coral. There is a long steel cable from where the light is, and under the light, at the highest point, there is a hanging weight, a sort of pendulum that swings like that, with a weight that measures about 1 meter by 30 centimeters wide, which is a block of solid iron attached to a cable. When you release it upwards, it comes down, and the weight that comes down pulls it up, gradually. And while it comes down, the same weight that is descending causes many small wheels to turn in the opposite direction. The Lighthouse rotates from 6 pm in the evening, when the sun sets, until 6 am in the morning. During the entire night, the light shines on the lantern, it goes down 24 meters, and the Lighthouse is 30 meters high. It is designed not to collapse," Mr. Fingal explains.

Mr. Fingal further explains that in one night, the lighthouse rotates 4,320 times and consumes one gallon of kerosene for the whole operation. "At that time, the kerosene was supplied from the Lago refinery. Every day it was brought down, and to start the light again, they had to lift the weight up, so our job as children was to crank it and raise the weight back up in the evening when the light stuck, they would take it down again, and the light stayed down. That's how it worked for a very long time," Mr. Fingal explains.

Thanks to the Monument Fund Aruba, which worked hard and is currently in charge of the Lighthouse, Mr. Fingal is very happy with its preservation, along with all the renovations that have taken place. He hopes that the story of the lighthouse will continue to live on for future generations. □



Aruba's natural product: phosphate

ORANJESTAD — In the 19th century another natural product, besides gold, was found to be fit for exploitation. On Seroe Colorado, at the utmost south-easterly tip of the island, guano was found. This limestone, containing phosphoric acid, originates from bird droppings, in this case sea gulls. There was a broad world market for phosphate that was used as a fertilizer.

The discovery of guano is being credited to J. H. Waters Gravenhorst in 1874, but it seems that in 1859 already an American, S. R. Kimball, who was digging guano on the Aves islands, had applied for a permit for exploitation. If it actually has come to that, remains unknown.

In 1871, guano had also been discovered on Klein Curaçao by the Englishman John Godden. His discovery caused quite a hype on the Antillian islands, a kind of 'guano mania'. On Curaçao too, guano was found and exploited by Godden. The phosphate was very conspicuous by its color: yellow to red-brown or the color of liver, sometimes green or purple. That's how Seroe Colorado (the Colored Hill) got its name.

After the discovery of guano on Aruba by Gravenhorst, exploitation was started by the Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij (APM), founded in December of 1879. The center of exportation was San Nicolas, which only consisted of a few fishermen's huts before. The activities surrounding the exploitation and exportation of phosphate led to more and more huts being built there. It already started to look quite like a little village, where sailors from the ships that came for the phosphate came looking

for distraction ashore. Local labor was initially only found with difficulty: that was because of the rival branch of industry, the exploitation of gold. That's why forty men were attracted from Bonaire and about twenty bricklayers and carpenters from Curaçao. Even a group of Italians was attracted to the island to manage the company; four of them never left the island: Antonio and Victorio Petrocci, Eugenio Falconi and Cajetano Jacopucci. They settled at Tanki Leendert.

The exploitation of phosphate led to the development of the settlement of Sint Nicolaas (San Nicolas). First a wooden pier was built in the harbor and the phosphate was taken there by donkey. In 1881, new material arrived from England and New York. The installations that were built then were ultramodern for that time. In the Sint Nicolaas-bay, an iron landing was built and that was the most modern harbor facility in the whole Caribbean at that time. For the transport of the phosphate to the harbor, a six kilometer long narrow gauge railway was built and the phosphate was taken to the loading berth in trains of about twenty tip carts and a steam locomotive. There it was loaded into sail ships that took it to countries like England, France, Germany and the United States to be processed to super phosphate that was used as fertilizer. The phosphate company had its own tugboat (the 'S.S. Phosphate') and its own pilot to get the ships safely in and out of the Sint Nicolaasbay. The time that was needed to load a ship was being reduced from 15 to 5 days. Three- to five hundred tons of phosphate per day could be handled by the pier. In 1882, about 250 men worked in the phosphate



industry and the salaries were not bad. People came from all over the island to work in the phosphate mines; those who lived in the surroundings of Noord, had to get on their way by foot or on a donkey by Sunday afternoon, stayed overnight in Savaneta to start working on Monday. The workers stayed near the phosphate mines all week and slept in barracks. On Saturdays, they worked half day, after which they set out to return home on foot or on a donkey.....

Business went well and soon a profit was made which allowed paying off the loans that were made for the investments. A dividend could be paid out as well.

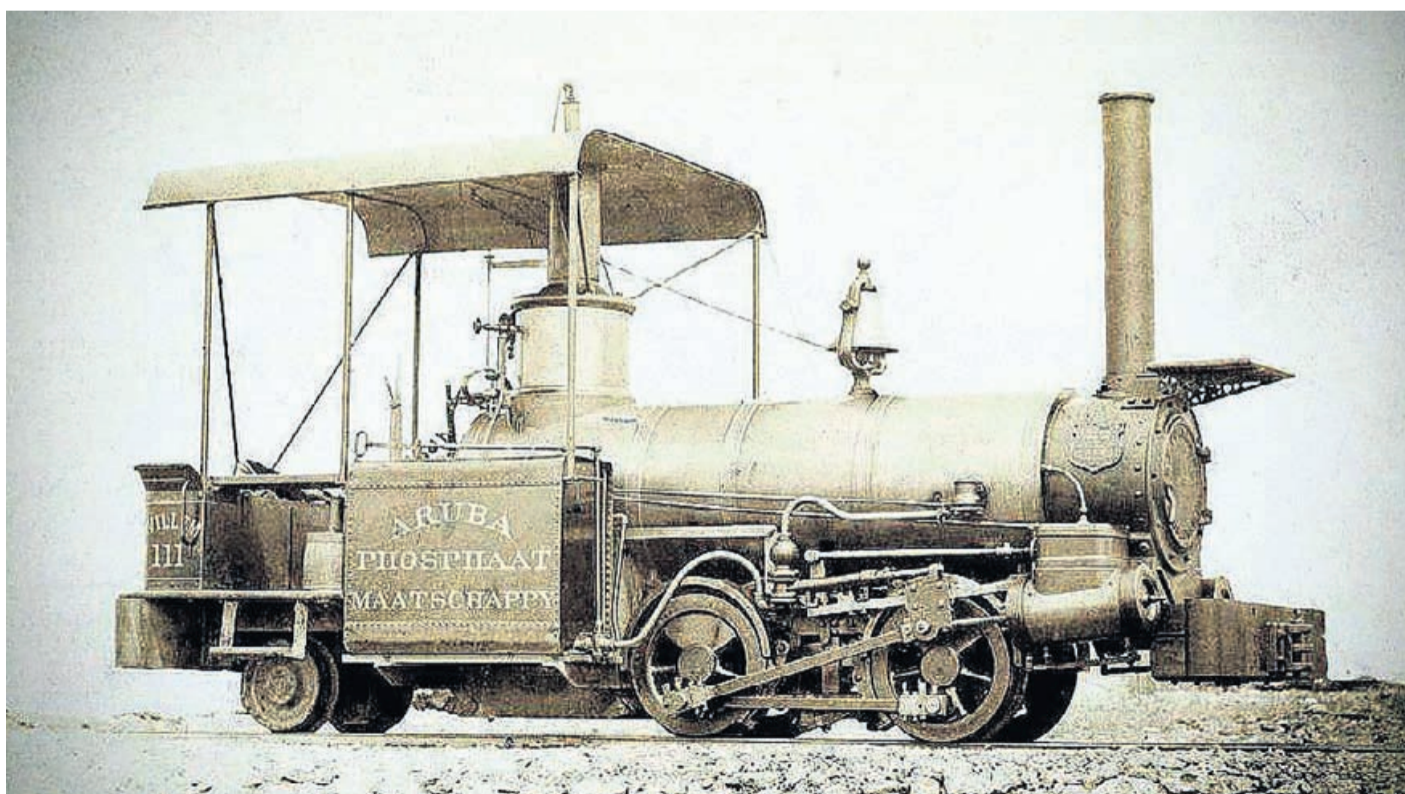
Initially, phosphate was extracted on Seroe Colorado and Seroe Cul-ebra. When the supply at the surface of the hills was exhausted after about fifteen years, they went on to look for phosphate deeper in the ground. On a depth of 15 to 18 meters, phosphate layers, six feet thick on average, were discovered at Banki Jerome, a bit more to the north. Mines were made to bring

up the material. Those provided enough phosphate for the next 15 years. Holes were drilled by hand into the phosphate and then it was extracted with explosives.

The exploitation of the phosphate caused the revenues of the island to rise considerably and that made it possible to support the other islands of the colony Curaçao (the Netherlands Antilles did not yet exist) as well. In the years of exploitation (that went on till 1914), 530,060 tons were exported with a total market value of almost 17 million guilders. Aruba could generate about 4 million guilders from exportation taxes.

But in the course of the years, phosphate exploitation became less profitable: as the phosphate had to be extracted from deeper underground, the quality became poorer. Furthermore, there was strong competition from good quality phosphate from Canada. Good and relatively cheap phosphate came out of Florida as well and as a result, the global prices went down. The APM found out that the expenses to exploit phosphate were too high to be able to still be competitive. Even though the tax rates had been reduced by the government, the profits continued to go down and finally the expenses could not be covered anymore.

When World War I broke out in 1914, the exploitation of phosphate became very difficult. It was impossible to get dynamite and the means of exportation became worse as a result of the war in Europe. The Aruba Phosphaat Maatschappij closed down in August of 1914 and a year later, the company was dissolved by its shareholders. Workers left again and went looking for work in the surrounding countries like Venezuela and Colombia. Source: www.historiadiaruba.aw. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 36 Rockies resort
1 Serving rewards
5 Omar of "House"
9 Sun Valley setting
11 Fathers growth
13 Strep of "Sophie's Choice"

- DOWN**
- 1 What x some-times means
2 Paragons
3 Completely
4 Bashful
5 German steel city
6 Falafel holder
7 Strait-laced

B E D S M A R E S
U B O A T I R E N E
R O W D Y R I D G E
N O N R O A D M A P
S K Y C A P E R E
O N E S A D D
F I N N T O T E
P U N Y A R D
A N T K I D N A P
S T O P G A P A L L
T I T H E E M O T E
E M A I L S A M O A
D E L L S G I S T

Yesterday's answer

- 8 Iroquois people
10 Adage
12 Scatter
17 Retina part
19 Get together
22 "Som-mersby" star
24 Undo, in a way
25 Harvests command
26 Singer Grande
27 Hole number
28 Calm
30 Fend off
31 Tightly packed
33 Sense
37 Canine



6-7

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

6-7 CRYPTOQUOTE

J R W S J T I B Z B U G R V K E I G. J L

J ' C R B E Q R W V R J R K V Z ' R U I

Q B Z I. R W I Z J A H G W W V S Q I S.

— J G G V S V I

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: FREELY WE SERVE, BECAUSE WE FREELY LOVE, AS IN OUR WILL TO LOVE OR NOT; IN THIS WE STAND OR FALL.
— JOHN MILTON

Cruise ship Schedule: September 03 - 24 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
TUE	03	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00 09.00	20.00 22.00	B C	1 1
WED	04	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	10	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL CELEBRATION CARNIVAL VISTA	08.00 08.00 13.00	21.00 22.00 23.00	B C I	1 1 1
TUE	17	CARNIVAL HORIZON	08.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	24	CELEBRITY BEYOND CARNIVAL MAGIC	08.00 09.00	21.00 22.00	B C	1 1

Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occurs, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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24/7

Killings of invasive owls to ramp up on U.S. West Coast in a bid to save native birds

By **MATTHEW BROWN**
Associated Press

U.S. wildlife officials beginning next year will drastically scale up efforts to kill invasive barred owls that are crowding out imperiled native owls from West Coast forests, under a plan finalized Wednesday that faces challenges from barred owls returning after they've already been removed. Trained shooters will target barred owls over 30 years across a maximum of about 23,000 square miles (60,000 square kilometers) in California, Oregon and Washington. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service goal is to kill up to 452,000 barred owls and halt the decline of competing northern spotted owls and California spotted owl s. Killing one bird species to save others has divided wildlife advocates and is reminiscent of past government efforts to save West Coast salmon by killing sea lions and cormorants, and to preserve warblers by killing cowbirds that lay eggs in warbler nests. The barred owl removals would be



A northern spotted owl flies after an elusive mouse jumping off the end of a stick in the Deschutes National Forest near Camp Sherman, Ore., May 8, 2003.

Associated Press

among the largest such effort to date involving birds of prey, researchers and wildlife advocates said. Native to eastern North America, barred owls started appearing in the Pacific Northwest in the 1970s. They've quickly displaced many spotted owls, which are smaller birds that need larger territories. An esti-

mated 100,000 barred owls now live within a range that contains only about 7,100 spotted owls, according to federal officials. The newcomers' arrival also threatens to decimate frog and salamander species that barred owls prey on. "It's not just one owl versus one owl," said David

Wiens, a U.S. Geological Survey scientist who led a barred owl removal study that ended in 2020. "Because of their predatory behavior, they are basically eating anything in the forest and this includes amphibians, small mammals, other bird species." Government officials say 15 years of killing barred owls experimentally, including on Northern California's Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, shows the controversial strategy could halt the decline of spotted owls. □

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How to reach us!

Downtown

One Tech Tip: How to get the most life out of your device

By **KELVIN CHAN**
AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — If you want to use your shiny new iPhone for as long as possible, you better take good care of it.

Most people are now holding on to smartphones longer instead of regularly upgrading them, and there are many reasons why.

At the dawn of the smartphone age, you might have upgraded to a new device every few years to make sure you had the latest must-have features or because your carrier's contract subsidized the purchase of the newest model. But that's no longer the case as smartphone technology has matured and innovations have become more incremental, and carrier pricing models have changed.

There's also an environmental push to keep old phones out of landfills as electronic waste becomes a larger sustainability issue. Smartphones these days are also just sturdier and better able to survive dunks and shocks.

"As long as you take care of your phone and keep it updated, you're going to get at least four or five good years of use out of it," said Chris Hauk, of Pixel Privacy, a tech website. Some device owners boast in online forums that they've had phones last more than seven years.

And if you're paying over \$1,000 for your smartphone, you'll probably want to it to last as long as it can. Here are some tips to extend the lifespan of your Apple or Android mobile device:

Battery care

One of the biggest factor in your phone's lifespan is the battery. A rechargeable battery's chemical age isn't related to when it was



The iPhone 15 Pro is shown after its introduction on the Apple campus, Sept. 12, 2023, in Cupertino, Calif.

Associated Press

manufactured. Instead, it's based on a complex mix of factors including "temperature history and charging pattern," according to Apple.

"As lithium-ion batteries chemically age, the amount of charge they can hold diminishes, resulting in reduced battery life and reduced peak performance," the iPhone maker says.

The company says its charging optimization technology is designed to improve battery life, and it's safe for iPhone users to charge their phones overnight.

Samsung, meanwhile, says its lithium ion batteries do best when kept above 50% charge. It advises against running the battery down.

"Repeatedly allowing the battery to drain fully may shorten its life and decrease its overall capacity," the company says in an online guide. "If this happens, you'll need to charge the battery more frequently

and it may last only a few hours before needing a charge, for example."

Avoid extreme temperatures

Apple says says that batteries warm up as they charge, which can shorten their lifespan. It warns against using your phone or charging it in very hot temperatures, above 95 degrees (35 Celsius), "which can permanently reduce battery lifespan."

Samsung also says extreme heat or cold can damage batteries and warns people not to, for example, leave their phones in a car's glove box when it's very hot or cold. And don't put your phone in a freezer either, it's a myth that it can prolong battery life. "This is not correct and can damage your battery," Samsung says.

Google, which makes the Android operating system and Pixel phones, says hot batteries drain faster, even when they're not in use, and that can damage the

battery.

Adjust your power options
Tweak your device settings so apps or features use less power, which extends your battery's daily life and the time between charging cycles.

You can turn down your phone's screen brightness, turn on the dark theme and reduce the time for the screen to power off. Enable the auto-brightness feature, which adjusts screen brightness according to the level of ambient light. Also check battery usage in your settings to see if there are any power-hungry apps you can switch off or uninstall.

If the power level dips below 10%, iPhone users can turn on low power mode to stretch their battery's life before it need recharging. Samsung's Android phones have a similar "power saving mode." You can also leave it on all the time, but it might affect your phone's performance.

Samsung says users can switch off Bluetooth or Wi-Fi if they're not being used, although Apple advises leaving them on because they draw minimal power when not connected.

Use protection

Phones are sleek capsules but the glossy surface means they can slip easily

out of your hand. So it goes without saying that you should get a sturdy protective case to help cushion the blow when you accidentally drop it.

Don't forget a screen protector. Plastic versions are the cheapest option but can scuff easily, according to device repair website iFixit, which recommends ones made with TPU film or tempered glass, which offer better protection against scratches and drops.

Keep your device clean
Keeping your phone in your pocket or purse means its ports and sockets can collect lint and other debris that you'll need to clean out.

"Take a little toothpick and just kind of get in and get rid of any debris," said Hauk. "Also the speaker and the microphone grills on phones, they do get dirty," so use a toothbrush to clean them, he said. Just make sure you're flicking the debris away from the phone instead of pushing it deeper inside the tiny holes.

Update your device

Software is another important factor in a phone's lifespan. Experts advise keeping your operating system and apps up to date so they have the latest privacy, security and battery management features.

That will be easier to do as your phone ages because some device makers have been extending the time limit for providing updates. Google has pledged to provide Pixel 8 and newer phones with seven years of Android and security updates, compared with four to five years for older models. Samsung has also extended its operating system updates to seven years starting with its flagship S24 device launched earlier this year.

Apple doesn't spell out how long it will support iOS updates for devices, although older devices like the iPhone 6s released in 2014 and the iPhone 8 were still getting security updates this year. □



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The Chiefs' pursuit of a 3-peat is the hot topic among many storylines entering 2024 NFL season

By **ROB MAADDI**
AP Pro Football Writer

Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs chasing history will be the hottest topic throughout the NFL season. Kansas City's three-peat quest is only one of many interesting storylines.

Aaron Rodgers is back in New York after his first season with the Jets lasted only four plays. The 40-year-old four-time NFL MVP is returning from a torn Achilles tendon and aiming to help the Jets end the league's longest active playoff drought. No. 1 overall pick Caleb Williams takes over for the Bears, looking to end Chicago's lengthy search for a franchise quarterback.

Fellow rookie QB Jayden Daniels leads the Commanders, who begin their second season under a new ownership group that saved Washington from Dan Snyder.

Russell Wilson tries to revive his career in Pittsburgh, becoming the third different QB the Steelers turn to since Ben Roethlisberger last played three years ago.

Jim Harbaugh returned to the NFL to coach the Los Angeles Chargers after winning a national title at Michigan. With Justin Herbert under center, Harbaugh doesn't have to start from scratch.

His brother, John Harbaugh, and the Baltimore Ravens



Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes (15) throws a pass against the Detroit Lions during the first half of an NFL preseason football game Saturday, Aug. 17, 2024, in Kansas City, Mo.
Associated Press

have unfinished business. Two-time NFL MVP Lamar Jackson led the Ravens to the league's best record, but they couldn't beat Mahomes and the Chiefs in the playoffs.

The pressure is on Josh Allen to deliver in Buffalo after the Bills lost in the divisional round for the third straight season.

The San Francisco 49ers' bid to return to the Super Bowl after falling just short against the Chiefs could be derailed by contract disputes. All-Pro left tackle Trent Williams and stand-

out wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk still haven't resolved their issues.

Nick Sirianni stayed put in Philadelphia despite a late-season collapse that had the Eagles go from 10-1 to blown out by Tampa Bay in a wild-card game. Jalen Hurts is learning a new offensive system again but another playmaker, Saquon Barkley, joined a star-studded cast that surrounds him.

The Cowboys didn't do much in the offseason after another playoff failure. Coach Mike McCarthy en-

ters the final season of his contract and Dak Prescott is planning to play out the last year of his deal unless he gets an extension. Jerry Jones did open up his checkbook for All-Pro wide receiver CeeDee Lamb, ending a long holdout.

Dan Campbell's Lions are a popular pick to make their first trip to the Super Bowl after his fourth-down gambles cost Detroit a shot last season.

Jordan Love got paid in Green Bay and looks to build off his successful first season leading the Pack-

ers. Trevor Lawrence also joined the \$55 million club (average annual salary) in Jacksonville. The Jaguars have to rebound from a disappointing finish after failing to reach the playoffs despite an 8-3 start.

C.J. Stroud took the Houston Texans from worst to first and now they seek to take another step in a packed AFC.

Deshaun Watson watched Joe Flacco lead the Browns to the playoffs and fans in Cleveland are running out of patience waiting for him to live up to expectations. A healthy and blonde Joe Burrow is back in Cincinnati, giving the Bengals reason for optimism.

Kirk Cousins joined the Falcons along with new coach Raheem Morris, taking aim at dethroning the Buccaneers in the NFC South.

Tampa Bay is running it back after re-signing Baker Mayfield, Mike Evans and several key players from a team that far exceeded expectations last year.

The Dolphins made Tua Tagovailoa a \$53 million a year QB, putting faith in him to lead Miami to its first playoff win in 24 years.

Bill Belichick moved onto a television career with Jerod Mayo starting a new era in New England. The Patriots hope Drake Maye brings a fraction of Tom Brady's success. □

NFL places restrictions on Brady's broadcasting access because of pending Raiders ownership stake

By **MARK ANDERSON and ROB MAADDI**
AP Sports Writers

Tom Brady's pending bid to become a part owner of the Las Vegas Raiders has triggered restrictions on his access to teams around the NFL as part of his role as a Fox Sports broadcaster, a league spokesperson said Thursday.

Brady is not permitted to attend in-person or online broadcast production meetings and may not have access to team facilities, players or coaches. Fox staff is not subject to these limitations.

He also must abide by the league constitution and bylaws that prohibit public criticism of officials and other clubs, but is allowed to broadcast Raiders games.

Brady, a seven-time Super Bowl-winning quarterback, is working with play-by-play announcer Kevin Burkhardt on Fox's top NFL broadcasting team. He signed a 10-year deal with the network in 2022, but this is Brady's first season announcing games. His effort to become a minority owner in the Raiders organization has been scrutinized by league owners since Brady put in his bid in May 2023. Owners didn't vote on the matter when they met in March in Orlando, Florida, because of concerns that Brady was receiving too much of a discount from Las Vegas majority owner Mark Davis.

Brady owns a piece of the WNBA's Las Vegas Aces, which also is owned by Davis. □



Tom Brady walks onto the field before San Francisco 49ers play New Orleans Saints before NFL preseason game at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., on Sunday, August 18, 2024.

San Francisco Chronicle via Associated Press



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The Casino at The Ritz-Carlton, Aruba encourages Responsible Gaming.

Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese record-setting seasons continue to fuel WNBA Rookie of the Year debate

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

Caitlin Clark and Angel Reese both have been having historic rookie seasons on and off the court and their performances continue to fuel the debates around the WNBA Rookie of the Year race.

The pair came into the league highly touted and haven't disappointed.

Despite the record-setting play by both players, Clark is still the favorite to win the league's Rookie of the Year award, according to BetMGM Sportsbook. Clark and Reese meet for the final time during the regular season on Friday when the Indiana Fever take on the Sky in Chicago.

Clark continued making headlines Wednesday night. After setting the rookie assists record on Aug. 18, the Fever guard set the rookie record for made 3-pointers in a win against



Indiana Fever guard Caitlin Clark (22) shot over Connecticut Sun forward Brionna Jones (42) in the second half of a WNBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Wednesday, Aug. 28, 2024.

Associated Press

the Connecticut Sun. She is averaging 18 points, a league-leading 8.1 assists and 5.7 rebounds. Clark is

on pace to break the overall assists record for a single season. She also has had at least 15 points and five

assists in 22 games this season, more than any WNBA player ever. Clark has helped lead

the Fever to the most wins they've had since 2016 and the team is in position to make the playoffs for the first time since that season.

"She's got special, special skills and those open things up for her," said all-time assist leader Sue Bird. "Her range unlocks so much for her. Her pace of play, she's either walking or sprinting, she even made a joke about it. That puts a lot of pressure on defense."

One downside to Clark's aggressive play is that it leads to turnovers. In addition to leading the league in assists, she also leads the WNBA in turnovers. But the pros outweigh the cons for Bird, one of the league's iconic point guards.

"Her ability to find her teammates and create opportunities for her teammates," Bird said, "it's the combination of those three things that makes her a threat all the time. □"